

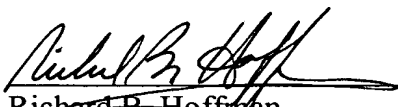
**REMARKS**

Applicant herein amends the specification to indicate all prior applications to which the present application claims the benefit of the filing date, and to which the present application claims priority. It is respectfully submitted that entry of the foregoing amendments to the specification would not require any substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent & Trademark Office, and are merely submitted for the purpose of confirming compliance with formal matters in the specification.

The information concerning the Applicant's claim to the benefit of the January 15, 1999 filing date of international application PCT/EP99/00217, and claim to priority to Germany patent application 198 10 367.0, filed March 10, 1998, were recognized by the Patent & Trademark Office by their inclusion on the filing receipt mailed December 4, 2000. Entry of the present Amendment After Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited. In the event any fees are necessary in connection with the present amendment, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855 under Order No. 30051/32015.

Dated: August 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Hoffman  
Reg. No. 29,610

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 6300 Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357  
Telephone: (312) 474-6300  
Facsimile: (312) 474-0448